

ON THE DAY THOR ODINSON LEARNED A LONG-KEPT SECRET STOLEN FROM THE WATCHER, HE DROPPED THE MYSTIC HAMMER MJOLNIR TO THE SURFACE OF THE MOON. TRY AS HE MIGHT, THOR COULD NOT LIFT HIS ONCE-FAITHFUL WEAPON. UNABLE TO POSSESS THE POWER OF HIS BIRTHRIGHT, THE THUNDER GOD RELINQUISHED THE NAME OF THOR AND NOW SIMPLY CALLS HIMSELF ODINSON. NOW HE SEARCHES FOR REDEMPTION, BUT UNTIL HE FINDS IT, HE WILL REMAIN...

The anworthy Compared to the control of the contro



WHEN THE BEING KNOWN AS THE UNSEEN ALERTED HIM TO THE EXISTENCE OF ANOTHER HAMMER ON OLD ASGARD, ODINSON RACED TO THE RUINS OF HIS FORMER HOME, BUT FOUND THE ENTIRE REALM MISSING, STOLEN BY THE COLLECTOR. ODINSON AND HIS OLD FRIEND BETA RAY BILL CONFRONTED THE ELDER—AND LOST.

WITH THE AID OF ODINSON'S TRUSTY GOAT TOOTHGNASHER AND THE MURDEROUS HEL-HOUND THORI, THEY BROKE OUT OF THE COLLECTOR'S PRISON, BUT FOUND THEMSELVES FACING MORE THAN ONE ENEMY—THANKS TO A MYSTERIOUS HOODED ALLY, THE IMPRISONED THANOS HAD LEARNED OF THE SECOND HAMMER'S EXISTENCE AND SENT BLACK SWAN AND PROXIMA MIDNIGHT TO STEAL IT.

BUT NO ONE SEEMS TO BE ABLE TO LIFT IT. THE COLLECTOR HAS TRIED. BLACK SWAN HAS TRIED. NONE APPEAR WORTHY...

AND NOW ODINSON HAS REACHED THE HAMMER.

THE WHISPER

WRITER: JASON AARON ARTISTS

OLIVIER COIPEL, KIM JACINTO & PASCAL ALIXE

COLOR ARTISTS:

LETTERER & PRODUCTION:

VC'S JOE SABINO

MAT LOPES & JAY DAVID RAMOS

COVER ARTISTS: VARIANT COVER ARTISTS:
OLIVIER COIPEL & MATTHEW WILSON LEINIL FRANCIS YU & MATTHEW WILSON; CHRIS STEVENS & FRANK MARTIN

ASSOCIATE EDITOR: EXEC. EDITOR: EDITOR IN CHIEF: CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER: PRESIDENT: EXEC. PRODUCER: SARAH BRUNSTAD WIL MOSS TOM BREVOORT AXEL ALONSO JOE QUESADA DAN BUCKLEY ALAN FINE

























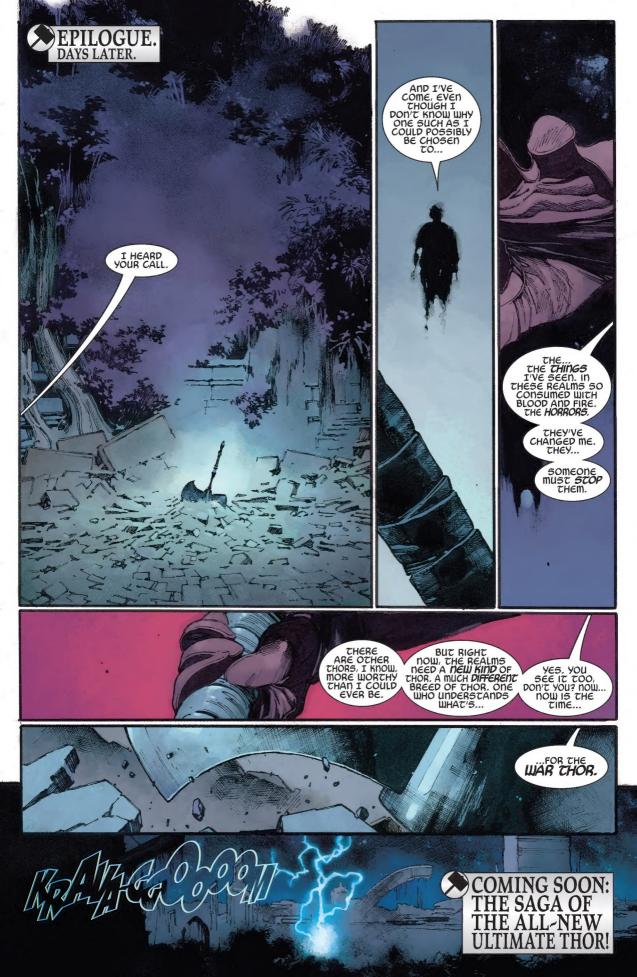














AND LO, THERE CAME... AXE ME A QUESTION

SEND LETTERS TO MHEROES@MARVEL.COM, DON'T FORGET TO MARK "OKAY TO PRINT!"

There you are, Hammerheads. You waited patiently-well, most of you, anyway-and now you've got your answer to the burning question: What did Nick Fury say to the Odinson on the moon all those months ago? And it's a heartbreaker.

If you're new to Jason Aaron's

If you're new to Jason Aaron's THOR saga, put down the mead and get reading. You can find Gorr the God-Butcher's bloody tale in THOR: GOD OF THUNDER VOL. 1: THE GOD-BUTCHER; witness the battle on the moon that cost Nick Fury his life and left the Odinson unworthy in ORIGINAL SIN; and learn how Hela lost her kingdom in ANGELA: QUEEN OF HEL. You don't even have to take the Bifrost: Collections of all these stories are on-sale now in bookstores, online, and through Marvel Unlimited.

Whether you've just joined the Odinson's journey or have been there from the beginning, you now know one important truth: It takes more than a starforged, storm-channeling hunk of uru to define worthiness. The Odinson will always be our herotand if you need proof, Associate Editor Sarah Brunstad has collected some of this month's love letters to our Prince of Asgard:

Dear friends,

I'm sure it has been done before, but this is the first time that I actually paid attention to it: a fall from grace, a desperate god. Those are the things I wasn't expecting to find in a Thor comic, and yet, those are precisely, the things that were needed the most. THE UNWORTHY THOR is more brutal, more savage (in my mind, more Viking), but also more human than previous versions of the character. There is nobility in Odinson and honor in his quest for redemption. I'can't wait to see how this miniseries ends. Oh, and did I forget to mention that I absolutely love having Jason Aaron and Olivier Coipel working on one of my favorite Marvel characters? Now THAT is one worthy creative team!

> Arcadio Bolaños, Lima, Perú

Hi Arcadio,

Jason and Olivier are truly a dream team, and we've been so lucky to bring in talents like Kim Jacinto, Pascal Alixe, and color extraordinaires Matt Wilson, Matt Milla, and Mat Lopes to add their own special touches to this crazy story—not to mention lettering master Joe Sabino. Thanks for following the Odinson's journey, and I hope you're joining us over in THE MIGHTY THOR, too.

Hello!

I am a super-duper fan of Marvel, although I never was a super-duper fan of Thor. Since I read (and LOVED) CONTEST OF CHAMPIONS, and I heard that the Collector was in UNWORTHY THOR, I decided to check it out. Boy, was I not disappointed. It is now one of my FAVORITE series! I have one clarifying question that has been bugging me. In UNWORTHY THOR, Thanos is in some kind of jail thing at the Ultimates' HQ, but in Thanos' own series (which I'm also following), he's out and about, running around the universe. How is this possible? Does one series happen after the other? Does Thanos have magic powers we don't know about? Is there still a Thanos clone laying around? Or is Thanos finally putting the Thanos copter to good use? No matter the answer (although I hope it's the last one), I love both series and hope you guys keep up the awesome work!

> Sincerely, A confused but excited 13-year-old, Dexter

Hi Dexter,

Excellent eye! The timeline got a little tricky here. The first half of UNWORTHY THOR takes place before THANOS #1, when Thanos is still imprisoned in the Triskelion. But over the course of the last half, we've caught up with the THANOS series; his scene in this issue takes place after THANOS #1. To find out how he escaped the Triskelion, check out GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY #19, which comes out April 12! Hmm. You know, we probably should've used the copter...

To Jason Aaron:

I have been following your work on Thor since Gorr the God Butcher's storyline. It was a different direction for Thor—a lot darker, perhaps a little sick and twisted with Thor being pierced while imprisoned, or having a god's

eyelids cut off, but I was interested to see how the story would end. I give you a lot of credit for creating "King Thor," a wonderful character, even if he was tired of living too. That would just make the ending more heroic. Well, Thor banged two Mjolnirs together, and that was the end.

Then Thor took another direction. He was stripped of his hammer because of a mortal whisper. His arm was promptly removed. And he became a drunken god who spends his time wallowing in selfpity. The Unworthy Thor indeed!

I have been a fan of Thor since the '80s. Walt Simonson created the greatest story arc in all of comics. He did this by developing characters we cared about. Interactions we would talk about. Sacrifices that we would shake our heads at in disbelief. Manipulation that would make us think. Nobility that we could aspire to. Redemption that we would cheer for. And stories that we would cry over. The story of Eilif the Lost (THE MIGHTY THOR #342-343) was a two-book story that remains one of best in all of Thor comics. And it was a side story. That's how good THOR was.

Now, Thor is in chains, stripped not only of his hammer and arm, but also his nobility and heroism. Fused to read comics to see how heroes overcome insurmountable odds and cheer them on. Now, I get a twisted, sick feeling as reading comics seems more like work than pleasure. This comic is not about the Unworthy Thor, it is about the unworthy writer.

Sincerely, Guy Powers, MD

Dear Guy,

Harsh words! But you know, even Jason would agree with your adoration for the legendary Walt Simonson. We all love those classic tales of godhood. The challenge of writing a character who's been around since 1962, though, is finding a new story to tell. And sometimes that means putting the character through their paces, even—or especially—when it hurts. I hope this issue assuages some of your anxiety about the Odinson's worthiness, or at least assures you of our deep love and respect for his vast history.

Check out upcoming issues of THE MIGHTY THOR, especially the saga of the all-new Ultimate Thor beginning in #20—you might find something just classic enough for your tastes.

Hello there,
I'd first like to say that I'm a big fan of your work! I started with THOR: GOD OF THUNDER #1, and · haven't been able to tear myself away since. I've never written in before, but after all your work on STAR WARS and THOR, I figured I'd give it a shot!

So, the first thing I want to say is, "Keep up the good work!" GOD OF THUNDER is hands-down my favorite comic-book run, and I really love what you've been doing with Jane Foster in THE MIGHTY THOR and with the big guy in THE UNWORTHY THOR.

I just have one question, and it's about Odin.

Back when you had him and Thor fight, I always wondered why there was much of a fight to begin with. Odin and his son have clashed on multiple occasions, and Odin always wins by a wide margin. That's to say nothing of when Odin has gone toe-to-toe with cosmic beings such as Galactus, who barely give Thor a second glance (at least without the Thor-force). I also wonder why he's been acting like such an impatient child. Now, I fully admit that Odin; despite being a god of knowledge and wisdom, has not always acted with restraint, but it's kind of hard to believe that he'd be so fallible. It just makes me wonder if there's something going on with Odin that we aren't seeing. A being of his power would definitely be an obstacle to the Dark Council, so I wonder if there is something more nefarious going on than just dramatic writing. Any chance that I am on to something? I look forward to finding out in the coming months! Again, keep up the good work and I can't wait to see what's next!

> Best regards, Hayden Rock

Hi Hayden,

Thanks for writing in! You've got a point here about Odin's tremendous strength and power, but even the best fatherson relationships are sometimes fraught with tension, and if you know anyone who can be reasonable during fights with family members, let me know, because I need THAT super-power. And after all, Odin and his son have a long history of world-shattering arguments—that's shattering arguments—that's how the Odinson ended up on Earth way back in JOURNEY ÎNTO MYSTERY #83! Still, it's hard to know just what's going through the All-Father's head...

Jason Aaron's version of Thor will become one of the classic depictions, on par with Simonson and (sacrilege!) Kirby.

I haven't bought single-issue comics since the early '90s, always preferring to wait for the collections, but Aaron and Coipel on the UNWORTHY THOR are producing some of the most thrilling superhero comics of the decade. Jaded as I am, I eagerly await each installment of this series.

Goats, Beta Ray Bill, and now we have a hel-hound as well. Five stars for story, art, dialogue, and 'all-around awesomeness. This is a great story of redemption—and that glimpse of an earlier time when Jane notices that Odinson hesitates and watches each morning to see if he is worthy...that is just gold.

"I need a hammer." Damn straight.

> Tade Thompson London, England

Thanks, Tade! Those pages in UNWORTHY THOR #4, by MIGHTY THOR artist Russell Dauterman, are truly heartwrenching. Glad you're here for the ride.

First Toothgnasher, then Beta Ray Bill, then you go all out and bring in Thori! Well done on the finest, maddest supporting cast since the "Manchester Gods" arc.

> Love and hugs, Geoff Davies Manchester, England

Goats, Korbinites, and helhounds. If that doesn't sell a comic, I don't know what does. Thanks for the love, Geoff! (And for the call-out to JOURNEY INTO MYSTERY #639!)

Jason.

Last issue was good...needs .. more goat.

Tom Liscord



Tom, have you been reading my emails to Jason?! Listen: I hear you, I feel you. Hope this issue satisfies you AND your goat's cravings.

That's a wrap! But the Odinson's not going anywhere. just grabbed that Find out in THE And, who hammer?! MIGHTY THOR as the War of the Realms escalates and the allnew Ultimate Thor smashes into action!

> See you there, Sarah

THE MIGHTY THOR #17



ON SALE NOW!

THE MIGHTY THOR #18

